

Accessing Census Bureau Statistics

Statistics About Governments

March 13, 2012

Disclaimer: Any views expressed are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Overview

- Introduction
- Organization of state and local governments
- Governments as economic entities
- Collection and production of data
- Other data collected on a reimbursable basis
- Conclusion

Introduction

- Main purposes of governments statistics
 - Provide economic statistics about governments
 - Serve as public-sector counterpart to private sector
 - Track activity of governments over time
- Response is voluntary
- Virtually no confidentiality restriction

Introduction

- Federalism – identifies fiscal relationships among different types of governments
- Measures activities you might not expect
 - Dependent Units vs. Independent Units

What makes the Governments Division special?

- Timely
- Relevant
- Uniform
- Accurate data

Core Programs

Frequency	Survey/Program	Data Available For:				Data Items Included
		US	State*	County*	Place	
Every 5 Years	Census of Governments	X	X	X	X	Number of Units, Employment, Finance
	Annual Survey of Public Employment and Payroll	X	X	X	X	Employment, wages, etc.
	Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances	X	X		X	Revenue, expenditures, etc.
	Annual Survey of State Government Finances	X	X			Revenue, expenditures, etc.
Annual	Consolidated Federal Funds Report	X	X	X		Federal expenditures, obligations, & contingent liabilities
	Federal Aid to States Report	X	X			Federal expenditures
	Public Elementary-Secondary Education Finance Survey	X	X	X	X	Revenue, expenditures, etc.
	State and Local Government Public-Employee Retirement System Survey	X	X	X	X	Contributions, assets, etc.
	State Government Tax Collections Survey	X	X			Tax revenue
Quarterly	Quarterly Public-Employee Retirement Systems Survey	X				Contributions, assets, etc.
	Quarterly Tax Survey	X	X			Tax revenue

Government Organization

- Why is understanding government structure important?
- What is included, and what isn't?
- How are basic services provided?
- Which comparisons are valid?

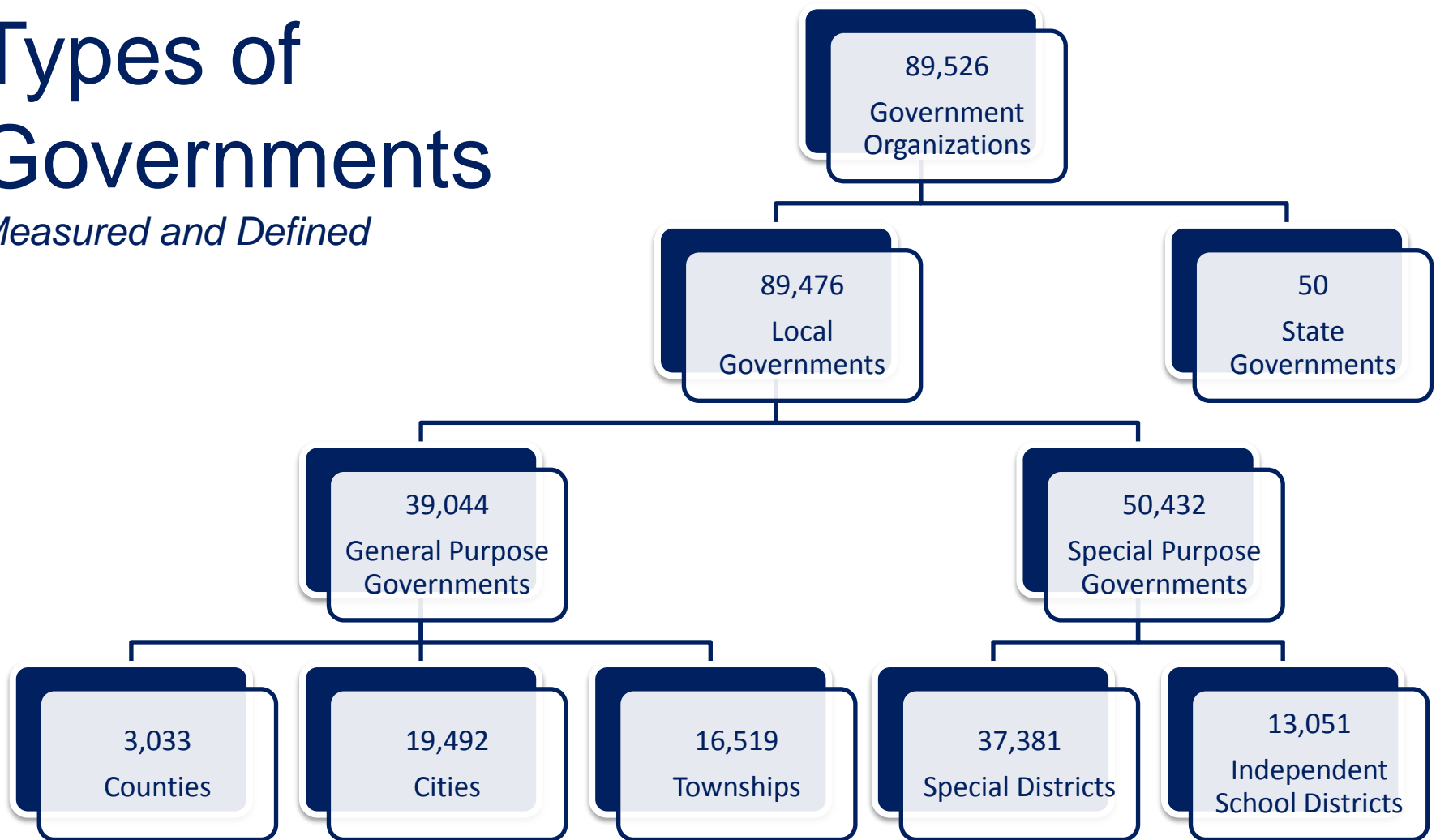
Defining a Government

3 criteria for defining a government:

- Existence as an organized entity
- Governmental character
- Substantial autonomy
 - Fiscal independence
 - Administrative independence

Types of Governments

Measured and Defined



Source: 2007 Census of Governments

Examples

Government

- Water systems
- Cities
- Counties
- Pest control districts
- States

Non Government

- Homeowners' associations
- Most charter schools
- Tourism development authorities
- Pest control districts*

Chicago and New York: Are They Comparable?

Chicago

- Cook County= 539 governments:
 - 1 County
 - 121 Cities
 - 29 Townships
 - 236 Special Districts
 - 152 School Districts

New York City

- New York City= 3 governments:
 - 0 Counties
 - 1 City
 - 0 Townships
 - 2 Special Districts
 - 0 School Districts
(dependent on city)

Government Structure

- Core government
 - Executive, legislative, and sometimes judicial
- Dependent agencies
- Jointly governed activities
- Core government does not reflect all government activity!

Change in Number of Governments by Type

	2007	1952
Total governments	89,527	116,805
U.S. Government	1	1
State Government	50,432	79,695
Local Government	39,095	37,110
General Purpose	19,492	16,807
Special Purpose	19,603	20,303
County	16,519	17,202
Municipal	50,432	79,695
Township	13,051	67,355
Special Purpose	37,381	12,340
School District		
Special District		

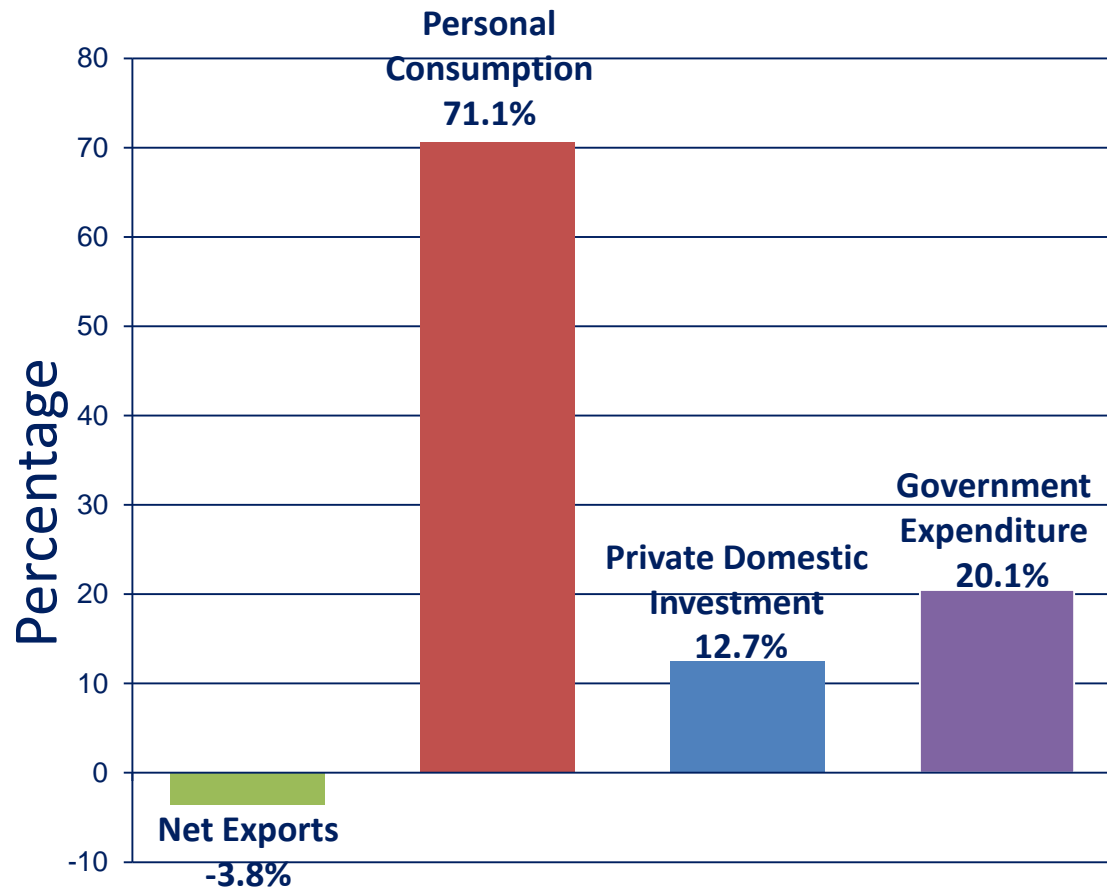
Available Information

- Data we collect
 - Finance, employment, retirement, and organization data
 - Statistics on federal spending
- Data collected for other agencies
 - Information on libraries, education, and criminal justice

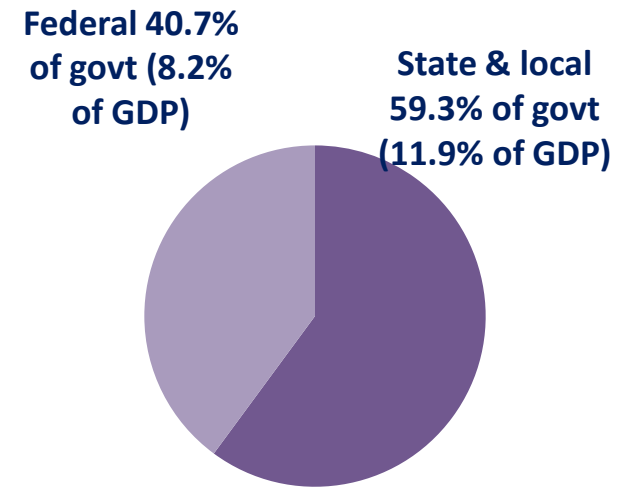
State and Local Government Data: Uses

- Calculation of important economic measures
 - GDP: Bureau of Economic Analysis
 - Flow of Funds: Federal Reserve Board
- Time series analysis
- Comparative analysis
- Public Policy
 - Tax, health, education, welfare, transit, etc.

Governments as Producers: Percent of Gross Domestic Product



Components of Gross Domestic Product



State & Local Government Finance

- Main categories:
 - Revenues (by type)
 - Expenditures (by character and function)
 - Indebtedness (by term)
 - Cash and securities

Sources of Tax Revenue – Variety Among States

Percent Distribution of State Government Tax Revenue

Fiscal Year 2010	Total %	Sales and Gross Receipts			License Taxes	Income Taxes			All Other Taxes		
		Sales Total	General Sales	Selective Sales	License Taxes Total	Income Taxes Total	Individual Income	Corporation Income	All Other Taxes Total	Property Taxes	Other Taxes
U.S. Average	100	48.9	31.9	17.0	7.2	38.8	33.6	5.2	5.0	2.0	3.0
Alaska	100	5.7	x	5.7	3.2	14.2	x	14.2	76.9	2.6	74.3
North Carolina	100	43.9	27.2	16.6	7.1	48.4	42.4	6.0	0.6	x	0.6
Florida	100	83.3	58.8	24.5	6.7	5.7	x	5.7	4.3	>.01	4.3
California	100	36.8	29.8	7.0	7.7	52.2	43.5	8.7	3.2	3.2	>.03
Delaware	100	16.7	x	16.7	45.4	35.9	30.8	5.1	1.9	x	1.9

Reimbursable Programs

Frequency	Survey/Program	Data Available For:				Universe	Data Items Included	Sponsoring Agency
		US	State*	County*	Place			
Biennial	Academic Libraries Survey	X	X			Degree-granting post-secondary institutions in all states, DC and territories	Expenditures, staffing, circulation, etc.	NCES Dept. of Education
	Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement	X	X			Public and private juvenile facilities	Demographic, offense, etc.	OJJDP Dept. of Justice
	Juvenile Residential Facility Census	X	X			Public and private juvenile facilities	Facility characteristics	OJJDP Dept. of Justice
	Survey of State Research and Development Expenditures	X	X			All states, DC, and PR	Type of R&D, funding, etc.	National Science Foundation
Annual	Annual Parole and Probation Surveys	X	X			Parole and probation population	Counts, entries, discharges, etc.	BJS Dept. of Justice
	Annual Survey of Jails	X		X	X	Sample of local and regional jails	Jails and inmates	BJS Dept. of Justice
	Criminal Justice Expenditure and Employment Survey	X				All state and local governments	Finance and employment	BJS Dept. of Justice
	Federal Assistance Award Data System	X	X	X	X	Grant-making federal agencies	Recipients, financing, etc.	Office of Management and Budget
	Federal Audit Clearinghouse					State and local governments and non-profits	Finance	Office of Management and Budget
	Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Health Insurance Cost Study	X	X	X	X	All state and local governments	Health plans, premiums, benefits, and enrollment	AHRQ
	National Public Education Financial Survey	X	X			All states, DC, and insular areas	Revenue, expenditures	NCES Dept. of Education
	Non-fiscal surveys of the Common Core of Data	X	X			Public elementary & secondary schools and school districts in all states, DC and territories, DOD and BIE	Directory, membership, teachers, staff, dropouts, graduates	NCES Dept. of Education
	Public Libraries Survey	X	X			Public Libraries in all states, DC and 4 outlying areas	Circulation, visits, staffing, etc.	Institute of Museum and Library Services
	State Library Agencies Survey	X	X			State Library agencies in all states and DC	Expenditures, staffing, governance, etc.	Institute of Museum and Library Services
	Survey on Sexual Violence					Correctional Facilities	Allegations, demographics	BJS Dept. of Justice
	Teacher Compensation Survey	X	X			All states and DC	Salaries, expenditures, degree earned, etc.	NCES Dept. of Education
Biannual	National Prisoner Statistics	X				All states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons	Characteristics of population	BJS Dept. of Justice

Conclusion

- Government statistics are:
 - Important,
 - timely, and
 - significant!
- These statistics are critical to understanding the fiscal welfare of state and local governments.
- Government data are essential to assemble GDP and Federal Funds accounts.

Questions?

Outreach and Education Branch
Governments Division

govs.cms.inquiry@census.gov

1-800-242-2184